

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PROGRESS OF SOUTHWEST MONSOON

1. DURING THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1975, 25 OF THE 35 INDIAN WEATHER ZONES REPORTED PRECIPITATION AS NORMAL OR ABOVE. TEN WEATHER ZONES ACCOUNTING FOR 20 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION DURING THE RECORD YEAR 1970-71, RECEIVED PRECIPITATION 20 TO 99 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL. FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 24, 1975, 11 WEATHER ZONES RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE RAINFALL, WHERE AS 24 WEATHER ZONES RECEIVED 20 TO 88 PERCENT BELOW NORMAL.

2. OFFICIALLY, THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON PERIOD EXTENDS FROM JUNE 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30. THIS YEAR, CUMULATIVE RAINFALL DURING SUBJECT PERIOD WAS NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY EXCEPT FOR BIHAR PLAINS, WHERE IT WAS marginally DEFICIENT. THUS, AREAS ACCOUNTING FOR 94.5 PERCENT OF TOTAL KHARIF GRAIN PRODUCTION (USING AS A BASE THE DISTRIBUTION OF KHARIF CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION DURING 1970-71) RECEIVED NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL. DURING COMPARABLE PERIOD IN 1974, AREAS RECEIVING NORMAL OR ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY 49 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL KHARIF CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION.

3. SOME STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF DAMAGES DUE TO FLOODS WERE REPORTED IN MAJOR FLOOD AFFECTED STATES OF BIHAR,, UTTAR PRADESH, AND ORISSA. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THE VALUE OF CROPS LOST AND DAMAGED DUR TO THE FLOODS IN THREE STATES OF BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH, AND ORISSA IS ESTIMATED AT RS 3,860 MILLION, OF WHICH

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UTTAR PRADESH SUFFERED RS 1,980 MILLION, BIHAR 1,340 MILLION, AND

ORISSA RS 540 MILLION. FLOODING OF 6.4 MILLION ACRES OF CROPPED' AREA INCLUDED 2.9 MILLION IN BIHAR, 2.8 MILLION IN UTTAR PRADESH, AND 0.7 MILLION IN ORISSA. THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT 160 IN BIHAR, 112 IN UTTAR PRADESH, AND 101 IN ORISSA. HOUSES AND OTHER DWELLINGS COLLAPSED OR DAMAGED IN BIHAR, UTTAR PRADESH, AND ORISSA ARE ESTIMATED AT 258,900, 57,525, AND 176,000 RESPECTIVELY

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THESE ESTIMATES ARE PREPARED BY STATE GOVERNMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH REQUESTS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR FLOOD RELIEF.

4. EVEN THOUGH THE SOUTHWEST MONSOON SEASON IS CONSIDERED OFFICIALLY TO HAVE ENDED ON SEPTEMBER 30, SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCED MEDIUM TO HEAVY RAINFALL AFTER THAT DATE. FARMERS WOULD PREFER TO SEE A CESSATION OF RAIN NOW TO PERMIT HARVESTING, THRESHING, DRYING, STORING, AND MARKETING.SCHNEIDER

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